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ISASC
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

June 2002

A BALANCED VIEW

The Pittsburgh Convention - A Marvelous Time By All

From all the comments I received, and from my own experience, this year's convention in the delightful City of Pittsburgh from May 30 to June 3 was a great success. Total registration was 129. There were many highlights during the four days, more than I can go into in this newsletter. Certainly the visits to the homes and collections of Mary Ann Murphy and David Spence and Bill Everett on Friday were very enjoyable. The Saturday morning program and the Silent Auction in the afternoon again were most successful. The sales at the Silent Auction were the highest we have ever had. Atotal of $30,400 in sales were made. The Society realized $3,040 in income from the sales.

At the banquet on Saturday night special recognition was given to two people. Diana Crawforth-Hitchins, long time Editor of Equilibrium, who is retiring as Editor at the end of this year, was honored for her outstanding long service to the Society. As most know, Diana was one of the founding members of ISASC. (More on Diana and Equilibrium later).

The other honoree was Bill Everett who presented ISASC a check for $75,000, to go along with $10,000 previously donated, for the establishment of an Endowment Fund. Again, more on Bill and the Endowment Fund later.

On Sunday, in addition to the Show and and Tell - Global Style program, Robert Jibben put togrther an ISASC version of "The Antique Roadshow" that proved to be a big hit. Finally, on Monday a large number of attendees stayed over to go on a post-convention tour of two outstanding Frank Lloyd Wright homes, "Falling Water" and "Kentuck Knob", and attend a bar-be-cue at Bill Everett's Ligonier mountain home.

The Pittsburgh Convention was such a great success because of the incredible hard work of the Co-Chairmen, their wives and their committee. We are all greatful for the work of Co-Chairman Les Firth and Ben Smith and their wives Elaine Firth and Mary Smith. The other members of the Convention Committee were Bill and Libby Everett, and Mary Anne Murphy and David Spence. Our sincere thanks to all of you and the program participants for putting on a most memorable convention!!

Endowment Fund -- Bill Everett's Contribution

For some years now concern has been expressed by various members about the status their collections after they have died. In 1998 a committee was formed by ISASC to look into the matter. Under the leadership of Judy Soslau, a questionnaire was sent to all members asking various questions related to the subject of the endowment of their collections or funds to ISASC for the purpose of establishing a museum, or some other vehicle for the preservation of collections. There was a strong response by the membership with an overwhelming number expressing the view that ISASC should

develop a mechanism to help a widow/widower dispose of a deceased spouse's collection.

At about that same time long-time member Bill Everett had conversations with Bob Stein about the possibility of doing something concrete in that area. Bob passed that information on to the Board of Directors and some of us went to Pittsburgh to talk to Bill and get his thoughts. It was clear that an overall plan was needed and to that end I appointed a committee to develop a plan. Bill donated $10,000 to ISASC to get the ball rolling. The committee consists of Jerry Wilson as Chairman, Mary Anne Murphy, Betty Wright, Bill Doniger, and Steve Beare. The committee has developed a plan that calls for us to "walk before we run". In a future issue of A Balanced View I will present an outline of the plan and what we hope to accomplish. A new fund has been established, The Endowment Fund. At the Pittsburgh Saturday night banquet Bill Everett donated an additional $75,000 to the Endowment Fund to go along with the $10,000 he previously donated. In addition, Bill announced that upon his death his complete collection will be donated to ISASC. It is hard to find the words to express our gratitude to Bill and Libby for their generosity, but let me say, with deep appreciation, thank you very much.

Equilibrium

You will note that in the envelope containing this issue of A Balanced View there is your copy of Equilibrium, issue #2, 2002. As I am sure you are aware, under normal circumstances and normal publishing dates you should have received issue #2 last April and that you would be receiving issue #3 sometime in July, and #4 in October. However, during this year of 2002 and during the last quarter of 2001 circumstances beyond the control of the publisher of Equilibrium, i.e. ISASC, or anyone else, have caused the delay in publication. The long-time Editor, Diana Crawforth-Hitchins, has experienced some personal and family health problems that were primarily responsible for the slippage in the publication dates. As I mentioned above, Diana has resigned as Editor of Equilibrium effective with the publication of the 2003 #1 issue. Diana is also committed to updating the index for Equilibrium, which is long overdue. It is our goal to "catch up" during the rest of this year and return to our normal publication dates of January, April, July, and October. Please be patient. The preparation and publication of our 28 page high-quality journal is a most formidable task. The Board of Directors met with Diana during the Pittsburgh Convention and she stated that she is confident the goal can be met, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Ruth Willard, who has served as Associate Editor of Equilibrium since 1995, will assume the responsibilities of Editor. She is a founding member of ISASC and an active member

of the Board of Directors. Jan Berning, John Shannon, and Geraldine Shannon have joined the editorial staff. Diana will continue contributing her valued Beginners' Guide series and her expertise. She has expressed enthusiasm about writing articles on her own schedule. In the coming issues of A Balanced View I will go into more detail about our future plans for Equilibrium.

Streeter Collection

At last we have finished the web site for the Streeter Collection of Weights & Measures located at Yale. We started this project in April 2001when ISASC was approached by Yale on behalf of the family of Edward Streeter, who wanted to have more public accessibility/exposure of this major collection which formed the basis for Bruno Kist's classic reference work "Weights and Measures".

Steve Beare spearheaded the effort. Last year he and Eddy Konowitz went to Yale and met with the widow and son of Edward Streeter, and worked out the estimated costs, scope, and timing. Steve and Eddy reviewed the estimated 3000 items in the collection and selected 80 representative items for the web site. Paul Bessey generously agreed to photograph all the 80 during the summer, and created a CD of the images.

A lot of work by many people went into the preparation of the site, We hope there is something for everyone, and that you enjoy and learn from this effort. The format provides the framework for the addition of other scale collections to our web site.

Emil Cohn Jr. June 21,1910 - April 3, 2002

Emil is survived by his sons Emil III and Joseph, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He and his adored wife Ruth, who passed away several years ago, were active participants in ISASC conventions for more than twenty years. Emil was a joyful and inquisitive person who lived life to the full, making friends wherever he went. When his family's Congregation Keneseth Israel planned a new temple, Emil toured the US in his capacity as chair of the committee for the selection and building of the pipe organ. During the many years that he attended the furniture fairs in Copenhagen he played an influential role in introducing Scandinavian furniture to the American market. He also brought some handsome Scandinavian scales to the attention of fellow scale collectors.

But Emil was not content to collect merely the scales and weights themselves. Whether at home or abroad, he frequently visited libraries and museums, seeking old documents and artworks pertaining to the practice of weighing in many countries and many centuries. He freely shared his findings with us, usually through publication in EQM.

Some examples: Many of us have obtained copies of "Wardmote Inquest," from our Fulfillment Center. This is an attractive colored illustration and account of early weights and measures officers performing their duties in London. It appears in EQM 729-773. Emil found it in an 1808 book, *The Costume of Great Britain.*" "Weighing in India, 1733," is a manuscript and painting of a Mogul being weighed, from *Ceremonies and Religious Customs of the Various Nations of the World.* EQM 2414-2415. "Medieval Weights and Measures," is a 1484 vellum wall chart formerly thought to show distances between European and east Mediterranean ports. It had just been recognized as a chart of equivalent weights and measures used in those ports. Newly translated by James E. Kelley, Jr., and published at Emil Cohn's request. EQM 766, 778-783.

"Making Scales:" 20 plates showing craftsmen in the works of John Chatillon & Sons, of New York. EQM 333-338 and 447-452. Extract from *PROGRESS OF THE WORLD – INVENTIONS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, MANUFACTURING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS* vol. 17, 1915. "The United States Assay Office at New York:," account and full page plate, from *Harper's Weekly* Jan. 14, 1882. EQM 531-534. "Redeeming Trade Dollars in the New York Sub-Treasury," article and full page plate from *Harper's Weekly* June 4, 1887, EQM 648-649.

At the New Orleans convention in 1996, Emil showed photographs of the balance made in 1844-1845 by Joseph Saxton and used as his internal test instrument at the Office of Weights and Measures. He found this scale on display at the American Philosophical Society library. At the Toronto convention in 1998, Emil showed slides of some weights excavated from two Bronze Age shipwrecks, the Uluburun and the Cape Gelidonya, by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. The Institute has agreed to supply articles for EQM in the future.

Thank you, Emil, for adding an extra dimension to our scale collecting!

Ruth. Willard

Elections --- 2002

The next mailing of Equilibrium will include a ballot for the election of two members of the Board of Directors and the President for three year terms commencing January 1, 2003. Current board member and Secretary Norm Cima has announced that he will not be a candidate for reelection. Jerry Katz will be up for reelection to the board and I will be up for reelection as President. Peter Laycock of Toronto, Canada, will be a candidate for the upcoming vacancy. I will go into more detail on the election and the election process in the next issue of this newsletter.

San Antonio --- 2003

Our next convention will be in San Antonio, Texas, May 15 through May 18, 2003. The Chairman of the convention is Arnold Tolkin who will be assisted by Co-Chairs Judy and Eric Soslau and Carol and Robert Hayden. You will find a seperate announcement concerning the convention accompanying this newsletter. Arnie Talkin has been a member of ISASC for approximately 20 years. He was the former chief executive of a major travel wholesaler which was sold to American Express four years ago. During that time, and continuing to now, Arnie has organized and run conventions for many organizations such as ISASC. Arnie and Barbara have been married for 49 years and have four sons and 12 grandchildren. He is interested in Genealogy and is presently a Board member of the

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He has been involved with their annual conventions in London, Toronto, and their forthcoming meeting in Washington. D.C.

Be sure to read all the details about San Antonio 2003 in the accompanying announcement !!

Sincerely,

Tom Dooley

Tom Dooley, President
ISASC